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PRESS RELEASE

THE EDWARD M. KENNEDY CENTER FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AND THE ARTS OPENS IN DHAKA

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 30 -- In partnership with the Liberation War Museum, the American Center of U.S. Embassy Dhaka announces the grand opening of the Edward M. Kennedy Center for Public Service and the Arts (EMK Center) in Dhanmondi, Dhaka. The mission of the EMK Center is “to engage, inspire, connect, and empower citizens of all ages to better themselves, their communities, and our world.”

The EMK Center honors the men and women who fought for Bangladesh’s independence in 1971 and U.S. Senator Edward M. Kennedy, who came to Bangladesh in 1972 to extend the hand of friendship. The EMK Center recognizes and encourages the work of today’s youth and defines public service as “service on behalf of the people – by anyone, anywhere, anytime.”

This modern, welcoming space is equipped with wifi access, a café, classrooms, a resource and reference room, and a lounge area, all of which are available to members of the EMK Center who may join for an annual fee of 1000 taka.

At the grand opening, U.S. Ambassador Dan Mozena said: “I am so proud that we have partnered with the Liberation War Museum to create this glorious space in Senator Kennedy’s memory to provide a base, a foundation, a home for Bangladesh’s next generation of leaders. As we seen in the several months since the Center’s soft launch in July, some of nation’s best young leaders are already taking full advantage of this facility. Hundreds of young social entrepreneurs have come to this beautiful new space to lead or participate in leadership training, to lead or participate in human rights workshops, to lead or participate in civic education programs.”

In addition to Ambassador Mozena, U.S. Deputy Chief of Mission Jon Danilowicz, Acting Director of the American Center Dr. Evelyn Early, and Liberation War Museum Trustee Akku Chowdhury attended the opening together with young Bangladeshi social entrepreneurs and artists to support the EMK Center.

The Edward M. Kennedy Center will open to the public on October 1. For more information, please contact EMK Center Director M. K. Aaref at info@emk.com.bd. Photos and statements from the EMK Center grand opening may be found at, www.facebook.com/emkcenter, www.facebook.com/bangladesh.usembassy or at www.emk.com.bd.

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